

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
25 January 2001 (25.01.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 01/05824 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C07K 14/00** (74) Agents: **PRIOR, Kimberly, J. et al.; Jones & Askew, LLP**, 2400 Monarch Tower, 3424 Peachtree Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30326 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US00/19267**
- (22) International Filing Date: **14 July 2000 (14.07.2000)** (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/144,412 15 July 1999 (15.07.1999) **US**
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- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**  
— *Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: **SYNTHETIC PEPTIDES IMMUNOREACTIVE WITH HEPATITIS A VIRUS ANTIBODIES**

(57) Abstract: Synthetic peptides immunoreactive with hepatitis A virus (HAV) antibodies are provided. The peptides are useful as laboratory reagents to detect or quantify HAV antibodies in biological samples in clinical or research-based assays and for inducing an immune response to HAV when administered to a human or animal. The peptides contain antigenic epitopes, modified antigenic epitopes or combinations of epitopes of the major structural capsid polypeptides or non-structural polypeptides of HAV and contain one or more molecules of the amino acid glutamine (Q) at the carboxyl end of the peptide, which enhances immunoreactivity and immunogenicity, particularly IgM antibody reactivity.

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